



BUDGET BRIEFS FOR GENDER RESPONSIVENESS KAJIADO COUNTY GOVERNMENT



Study conducted by:
Gender Violence Recovery Centre (GVRC)

Period
March – April 2017

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1. INTRODUCTION

Gender-responsive budgeting is not about creating separate budgets for women, or solely increasing spending on women's programs. Rather, gender-responsive budgeting seeks to ensure that the collection and allocation of public resources is carried out in ways that advance gender equality and women's empowerment. It should be based on in-depth analysis that identifies effective interventions for implementing policies and laws that advance women's rights. It provides tools to assess the different needs and contributions of men and women, and boys and girls within the existing revenues, expenditures and allocations and calls for adjusting budget policies to benefit all groups.

It has been noted that a number of counties despite the good intention of devolution have not adopted gender responsive approach to development that would accord particular attention to equality and non-discrimination. Adopting gender responsive approach to budgeting and development permits the considerations to eliminate harmful and discriminatory practices that perpetuate Gender based violence and seek to promote social and cultural values and norms that favour equality, equity as well as justice.

Gender based violence remains a public health concern as an impediment to development. It is one the worst forms of human rights violations. It hampers socio-economic growth and overall health of the survivor, community and the country at large. A lot of empirical research on causes of GBV conducted have given recommendations on the strategies to curb GBV at various levels. Recent costing study by National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) and UNWomen (2016) estimated that 1% - 2% of the national GDP is consumed by GBV.

Prevention and response to GBV is heavily dependent on external funding necessitating the need for sustainable domestic financing. However, budgets for women programs remain insignificant as the departments created to implement gender programs in the Counties remain under-resourced. In addition, budgetary allocation is either gender blind or neutral. Thus, there exist gender gaps in the budget allocation and particularly so for programs addressing GBV which is seen as private and domestic in nature.

Therefore, this budget brief provides for guidelines for enhancing capacity for key stakeholders (GBV Networks (CSOs), Members of County Assemblies and County Management team) to ensure a gender responsive budget that include GBV vote head in individual County.

1.1 Objectives of the Development of the Budget briefs

The budget briefs aspire to enhance the participation of the right holders and duty bearers in the budget process to realize more resource allocation towards GBV management. In addition, the budget briefs seek to guide in lobbying for allocation of funds towards prevention and response to GBV in Kajiado County.

The objectives included to:

1. Enhance the capacity of Members of County Assemblies and County Management team and GBV Networks (CSOs) in monitoring and analysing the county budgets to realize gender responsiveness in Embu, Meru and Kajiado Counties
2. Engage in advocacy that leads to enhanced gender responsiveness in the appropriation of funds
3. Promote budgetary allocations for gender equality interventions
4. Push for increasing domestic financing towards GBV management
5. Empower structures for GBV response and timely intervention

1.2 Methodology

The methodology entailed:

1. Content analysis of the County Integrated Development Plans (CIDP), County Fiscal Strategy Papers, County Appropriation Bills of the financial year 2016/2017
2. Content analysis of the National Government budget policy statement of the year 2017/2018,
3. Consultative engagement with various stakeholders such as:
 - Members of County Assembly
 - County Executive Committee – CECs and chief officers/directors
 - CSOs /GBV working groups (networks)
 - Local administration and public institutions – police, Directorate of Public Prosecution (DPP), Judiciary, Probation office

1.3 The Key Questions Asked for the Budget Brief

- What was the allocation in FY2016/2017?
- How was it appropriated from a gender perspective?
- How much was allocated to the programs in the various sectors as itemised in the MTEF?
- How was the allocation to the various programs in the 2017/2018 at the national level?
- How can the appropriation of the 2016/2017 budgets be scaled up to suit the interests of men and women boys and girls?
- How can programs be improved to be more gender responsive-reprioritized?
- Which policies need to be made, adjusted and reprioritized?
- How does policy implementation become effective (check allocations vs policy commitments /desired impact)?
- How can stakeholders monitor gender responsiveness in program formulation and implementation?
- What are the indicators essential for ending GBV driven by deprivation, poverty and disempowerment of men, women, girls and boys by sector

1.4 Gender Gaps / Responsiveness in the County Budgets

An analysis of budget making process demonstrated a significant level of being gender responsive and hence provided an opportunity to scale up and ultimately provide for a vote head to address GBV. A brief analysis of the counties budgets is as shown below:

According to the Kajiado County Fiscal Strategy Paper and the Mid Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF), there were six priority sectors:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| • Agriculture and Livestock | • Infrastructure |
| • Health | • Basic Education |
| • Water | • Youth and Women Empowerment. |

The discussions on the budgetary allocations in these sectors were guided by very specific objectives as captured in the appropriation for the FY2016/2017. These were:

i. Agricultural transformation that promotes food security and sustainable income:

- ii. Creation of a suitable business environment;*
- iii. Investing in environmental and management;*
- iv. Promotion of basic education and retention of learners throughout school;*
- v. Investing in quality and accessible healthcare services;*
- vi. Investing in Infrastructure including roads, water, energy, and ICT to support other sectors.*

A common understanding of the aim to help accelerate growth and development and eventually minimize poverty through job creation and the indicators of Gender Responsive Budget in the various sectors was agreed upon as follows:

a) Agriculture

The agriculture /livestock sector has been highlighted as a key sector and budgetary allocation were guided by the overall objective of driving sustainable growth specifically funds were allocated to:

- *Promotion of food security initiatives: 4060 bags of assorted fertilizer accessed by farmers;*
- *County Abattoirs*
- *Livestock sale yard*
- *Animal disease control*
- *Livestock Production Extension services*

The allocation although tried to address inequalities, there presented gender gaps and the discussions on making them more gender responsive attempted to answer the following questions:

- *Did the allocation cater for animals belonging to both men and women?*
- *Who would benefit more from the allocation? Is it men or women or both?*
- *What impact did this allocation have on men and women?*
- *In time of drought, are both men's animals and women's animals compensated equally?*

b). The Health sector

The health sector allocation of the FY2016/2017 prioritised projects that were more inclined to infrastructure than services. Funds were allocated towards:

- *Construction of dispensaries*
- *Upgrading of Loitoktok Sub-County hospital*
- *Expansion of Ngong Sub County Hospital*
- *Construction of maternity ward, placenta pit, septic tank and incinerators*
- *Construction of staff house, and pit latrines*

Although the allocations were generous however there were gender gaps in health sector

c) Education sector

The key objective of the Education sector as detailed in the Mid Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) are:

- *Promote basic education,*
- *Accessibility to education*
- *Retention of learners*
- *Construction of 5 modern ECDE centres*
- *Training of 60 teachers*
- *Construction of 87 classrooms in primary schools and 19 classrooms in secondary school*

This is a sector that can be well resourced. The consultative discussion revolved around engendering the sector and eventually address violence against girls and boys and the undernoted gender gaps were identified:

- *The distance from and to school is a hindrance to attaining education for all*
- *Cultural and traditional aspect that lead to high drop out and eventual low literacy*
- *Teacher student ratio and also on gender ratio*
- *Lack of role models and mentorship programs*
- *Early pregnancy and marriage contributing to low literacy levels*
- *Girls who have to walk for long distance to fetch water affecting their learning time*

CONCLUSION

Gender-responsive budget analysis, along with legislation, and other practical policy measures can address gender bias and discrimination. It is a step not only towards accountability to women's rights, but also towards greater public transparency and can shift economic policies leading to gains across societies.

A budget is the most comprehensive statement of a government's social and economic plans and priorities. In tracking where the Funds comes from and where it goes, budgets determine how public funds are raised, how they are used and who benefits from them. Therefore, implementing commitments towards gender equality requires intentional measures to incorporate a gender perspective in planning and budgeting frameworks and concrete investment in addressing gender gaps.



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